FRONTLINE COMBAT

WAR AND FIGHTING MEN

EC COMIC

No. 2
SEPT.-OCT.

10¢

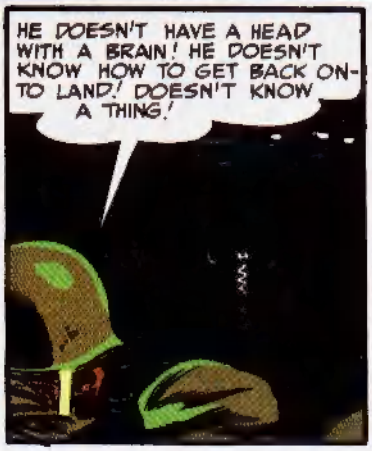
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE IN KOREA! IN THE HILL COUNTRY AROUND HOENGSONG, THE BATTLE SEESAWS BACK AND FORTH! ON A MOUNTAIN ROAD, SQUATTING LIKE A FORMIDABLE 48 TON TURTLE WITH A 90 MILLIMETER SNOUT, A TANK RESTS! A PATTON M-46 AFFECTIONATELY CALLED...

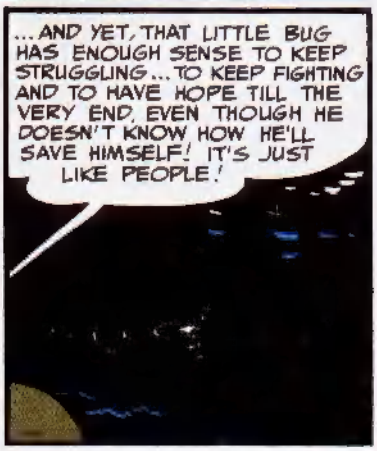
BOUNCING BERTHA

BOUNCING BERTHA

352 R

... NOW, SEE THAT BEETLE STRUGGLING IN THE WATER?





HEY, YOU EIGHT-BALLS! LET'S GET GOING! H.Q. SAYS THE HILLS ARE CRAWLING WITH ENEMY SOLDIERS! WE'D BETTER CATCH UP WITH THE PATROL WE'RE REAR-GUARDING! IF YOU GENTLEMEN CAN BREAK AWAY FROM YOUR CONVERSATION, WE'LL GET ON WITH THE WAR!

NOW OUR CAST OF CHARACTERS TAKE THEIR PLACES! T/5 DAVE GOGLIA, DRIVER!

...AND BESIDE HIM, P.F.C. ALLEN BURKE, MACHINE GUNNER! WATCH *HIM*!

UP AND BEHIND, IN THE TURRET, P.F.C. FLICKY FORD, ASSISTANT GUNNER!

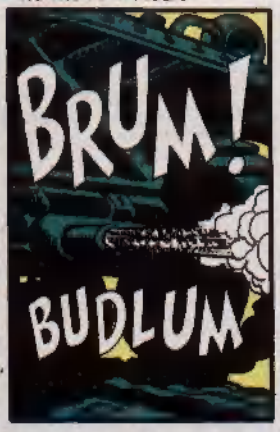
AND ON HIS RIGHT, T/5 LUSTRAW 'STRAT' COLEMAN, DRIVER AND GUNNER!

FINALLY, UP IN THE TOP HATCH, BUCK SERGEANT JOHN McMULLIN, TANK COMMANDER!

O.K., GUYS! LET'S *TAKE OFF!*

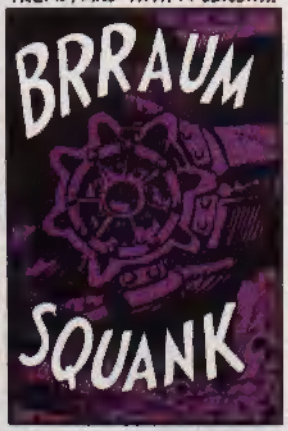
AND HOW DO YOU TAKE OFF? WHY IT'S SIMPLER THAN DRIVING AN AUTOMOBILE! YOU SWITCH ON THE IGNITION...

FEED HER GAS, AND THE MOTOR COUGHS AND CATCHES WITH A ROAR LIKE A GIGANTIC MOTORCYCLE!



NOW, WITH THE POWER OF 810 HORSES WHIRLING IN THE ENGINE, THE CLUTCH IS EASED UP...

...THE GEARS MESH, AND THE DRIVE SPROCKET YANKS AT THE TANK TREAD, AND WITH A LURCH...



..BERTHA GETS UNDER WAY... TAKES OFF! LIKE A TURTLE... NO... LIKE A RHINOCEROS! THICK-SKINNED, QUICK, AND DEADLY... AND WHAT DOES THE TANK LOOK LIKE ON THE LIGHT-PAINTED INSIDE?

INSIDE BERTHA, THERE IS NOISE... PLENTY OF NOISE! THE HAMMERING OF THE MOTOR... WHEELS SQUEAKING OVER TREADS... STEEL RUBBING STEEL...AMMO JIGGLING IN RACKS...AND SOMETIMES...***BULLETS THUDDING AGAINST THE HULL!***

UP AHEAD, SARGE! IT LOOKS LIKE THE ROAD'S BEEN CHEWED OUT!
HOLD 'ER UP, GOGLIA!
O.K., SARGE!
SQEEE

WHAT DO YOU THINK, 'STRAT'? THINK WE CAN GET BY THAT?
WE'D BETTER, SARGE! THE WHOLE CHINESE ARMY IS IN BACK OF US!

TAKE HER AHEAD EASY- LIKE, GOGLIA! HIT THAT LEFT TREAD HARD!

IT'S NO USE, SERGEANT! WE'RE STUCK AND SLIPPING! THAT LEFT TREAD IS HUNG UP! NO MORE TRACTION!

THIS BUGGY IS GOING TO SLIDE DOWN THE CLIFF ANY MINUTE! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

LET'S GO, MEN! HIGH-TAIL IT BACK UP THE ROAD! LEAVE THE IGNITION ON, GOGLIA!
LET'S GO, BURKE!
NUTS TO THIS, GOGLIA! I'M STAYING HERE!

BURKE WON'T GO, SARGE!
GET OUT, BURKE, OR I'LL KICK YOU OUT!
MIGHT AS WELL DIE HERE AS OUT THERE!

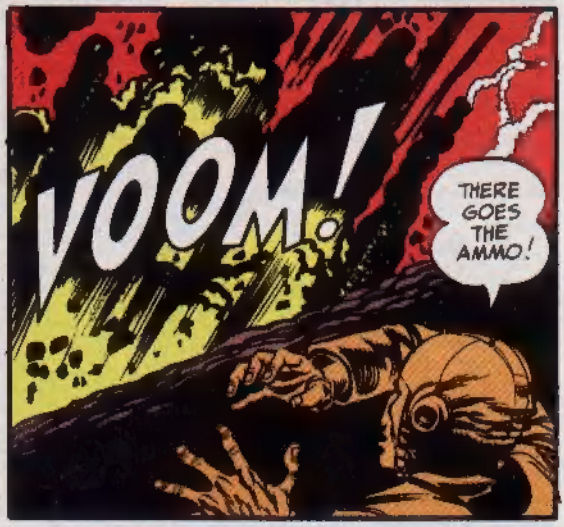
NOW DUCK FOR COVER! BERTHA'S GOING... UGH!

SERGEANT McMULLIN IS HIT! HE SHOULDN'T HAVE STOOD UP THERE SO LONG!

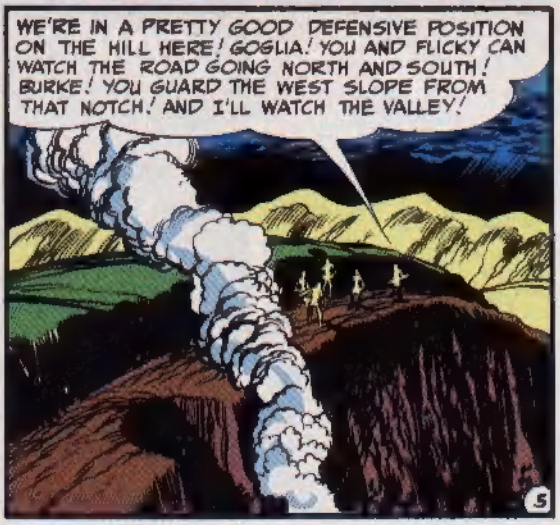
IT WAS YOUR FAULT, BURKE! SARGE CLIMBED UP THERE TO GET YOU!
HEY!

THERE GOES BERTHA!

BUM
KERBLUM
BLUM
BAM
CRAK


VOOM!
THERE GOES THE AMMO!

O.K., MEN! LET'S GET ORGANIZED HERE! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES!


WE'RE IN A PRETTY GOOD DEFENSIVE POSITION ON THE HILL HERE! GOGLIA! YOU AND FLICKY CAN WATCH THE ROAD GOING NORTH AND SOUTH! BURKE! YOU GUARD THE WEST SLOPE FROM THAT NOTCH! AND I'LL WATCH THE VALLEY!

GUARD THE SLOPE FOR WHAT? WE'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD NOW! WHAT'S THE SENSE! I'M NOT GONNA GUARD NO SLOPE!

DEEP IN ENEMY TERRITORY! A MILLION CHINESE ALL AROUND US! YOU GUYS GUARDIN'! WHAT YOU GUARDIN'? FOUR GUYS AGAINST AN ARMY? WHAT A LAUGH!

OUR NUMBER IS UP! WE SHOULD GIVE UP! WHAT'S THE USE? LET'S GIVE UP AND GET IT OVER WITH! I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU GUYS DO! I'M GIVIN' UP! YOU GUYS CAN ROT!

HEY! SURRENDER! I SURRENDER! WHITE FLAG!
LET HIM GO, STRAT! WE'LL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HIM! I'LL WATCH THE SLOPE IN HIS PLACE!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, SARGE! HE'D JUST DEPRESS US INTO GIVING UP! SURE YOU CAN FIRE THAT GUN?
YEH, YEH, STRAT! WATCH THE VALLEY!
LOOK! HERE THEY COME!

DON'T WASTE ANY AMMO, MEN!
PAM!

POW!

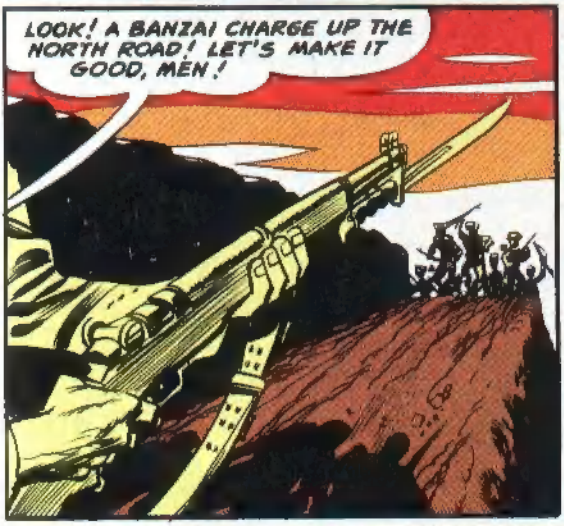
PAM!

BAM!

'STRAT'! I'M ALL OUT OF BULLETS! LEMME HAVE A FEW CLIPS, HUH!
MY BANDOLIER'S JUST ABOUT EMPTY, FLICK! HEY, SARGE! GOT ANY AMMO?

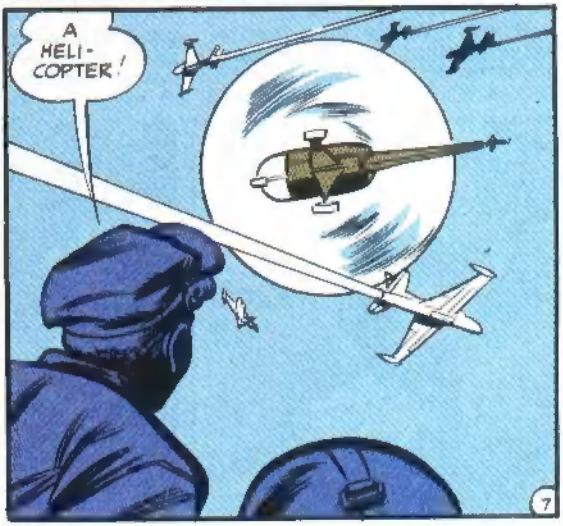
NOT MUCH! MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT! LOOKS LIKE THE ARMY'S FORGOTTEN US! MAYBE BURKE HAD SOMETHING!

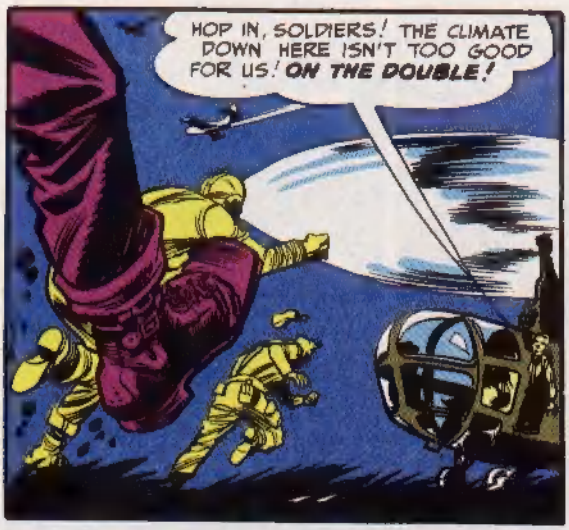
O.K., GUYS! NO MORE AMMO! NOT MUCH LEFT TO DO!... FIX BAYONETS!

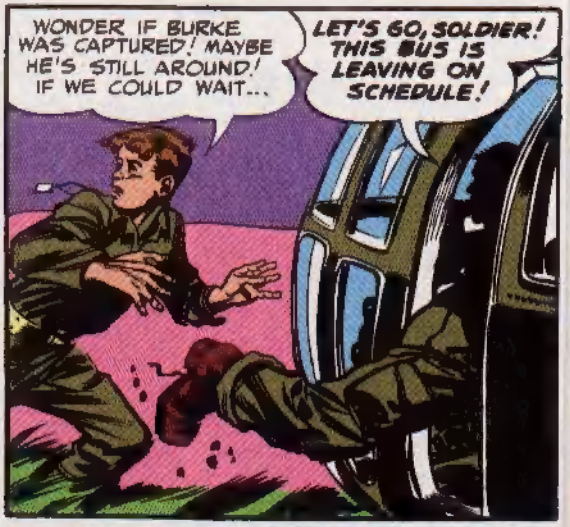

LOOK! A BANZAI CHARGE UP THE NORTH ROAD! LET'S MAKE IT GOOD, MEN!

BAROOM!

A MIRACLE! PLANES! OUR PLANES! AN UMBRELLA OF PLANES!
HEY! LOOK UP THERE! TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH!


A HELI-COPTER!





THE MEN CLAMBER ABOARD, AND AS ABRUPTLY AS IT DROPPED, THE HELICOPTER JERKS ALOFT!

AND AS THE HELICOPTER RISES, THE HEART OF ALLEN BURKE...THE TANKMAN WITHOUT HOPE... DROPS!

HE TURNS TO FACE THE GUNS OF ANGRY SOLDIERS! FRUSTRATED CHINESE SOLDIERS WHO HAVE JUST SEEN THEIR PREY SNATCHED FROM THEIR HANDS!

DOWN BELOW, IN A POND BY THE ROAD, A BEETLE WORKING ITS WAY TO THE SHORE GIVES UP THE STRUGGLE, AND A HUNGRY FISH COMES ALONG...

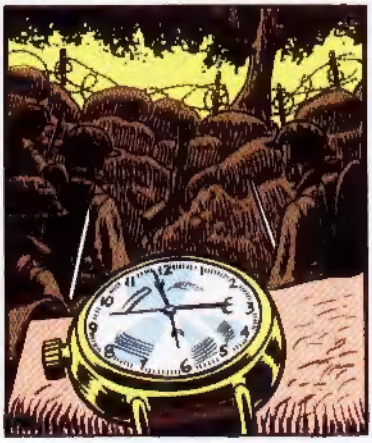
...AND THIS IS...

I WAS A SERGEANT IN THE BIG WAR OF 1918! THAT SEPTEMBER MORNING, I STOOD IN A TRENCH... LISTENING TO THE MIGHTY ALLIED BARRAGE THAT HAD BEEN GOING ON SINCE MIDNIGHT! I STOOD WATCHING THE SUN COME UP OVER THE ARGONNE... WAITING FOR THE MINUTE HAND TO REACH THE 6TH HOUR...WAITING FOR 6 TO HOP THE BAGS... WAITING FOR THE...

ZERO HOUR!

I WATCHED THE MEN! YOU COULD TELL THE VETERANS FROM THE REPLACEMENTS...THE APPREHENSIVE FROM THE CALM!

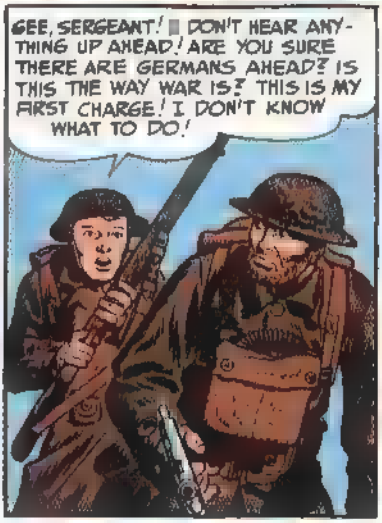
THE MOMENT WAS APPROACHING! THE BOCHE MUST HAVE THOUGHT WE WERE SENDING OVER THE WHOLE AMMUNITION DUMP!



...AND WE WERE! I HAD TO SHOUT TO BE HEARD...

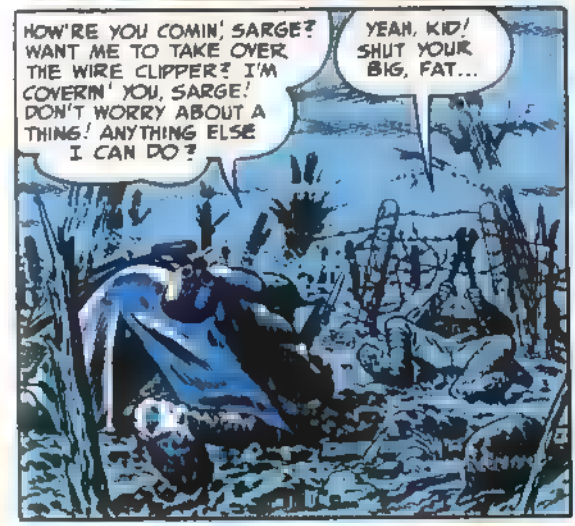
AND OVER WE WENT YELLING AT THE TOP OF OUR LUNGS! AND IT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE MUCH, BECAUSE SUDDENLY THE ARTILLERY HAD STOPPED TO LET US THROUGH...AND OUR VOICES COULDN'T DENT THE SILENCE...

...THAT IS, COMPARED TO THE BIG GUNS! WE RAN LOW AND STOOPED OVER THROUGH MOUNTAINS OF BARBED WIRE THAT HAD BEEN TOSSED ASIDE BY MORTARS! A KID, ONE OF THE REPLACEMENTS, RAN CLOSE BEHIND ME!

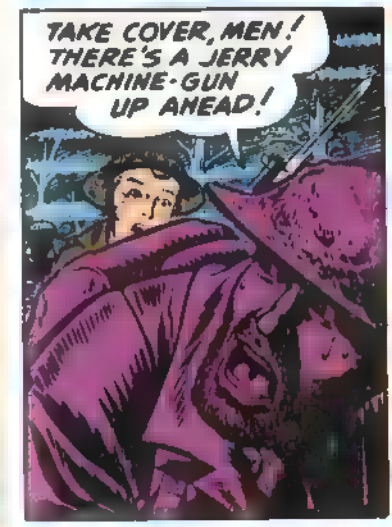


WOOPS! LOOKS LIKE A DESERTED TRENCH UP AHEAD! AND BARBED WIRE BACK OF THAT! PASS THE WORD BACK TO HALT!

BRING UP THAT WIRE-CUTTER, KID! WE'RE GOING TO CUT A ROAD THROUGH THE WIRE!


HOW'RE YOU COMIN', SARGE? WANT ME TO TAKE OVER THE WIRE CLIPPER? I'M COVERIN' YOU, SARGE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING! ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO?
YEAH, KID! SHUT YOUR BIG, FAT...

HALF A MINUTE, AND NO SIGN OF JERRY RESISTANCE! LEMME GET THIS BARBED WIRE AN... WHUZZAT?
CLIKITY KLAK


TAKE COVER, MEN! THERE'S A JERRY MACHINE-GUN UP AHEAD!

RATA-TAT
RAT-TAT-TAT-

TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

(GASP) SOUNDS (GASP) LIKE A COUPLE (GASP) OF JERRY MACHINE GUNS (GASP) OUT THERE! (GASP) ANYONE GET HIT?
YEH! THE KID'S STILL OUT THERE!

YOU MEAN THAT RECRUIT? THE KID WHO WAS WITH ME?
YEAH... WAIT! LISTEN!
FELLAS...

HELP ME, FELLAS...
LISTEN! IT'S THE KID! HE'S ALIVE OUT THERE!

HELP!
CAN YOU SEE HIM?
YEAH! THERE HE IS... HUNG UP ON THE BARBED WIRE!

HELP, FELLAS!
HEY! GIMME A HAND!
I'M SHOT, FELLAS!

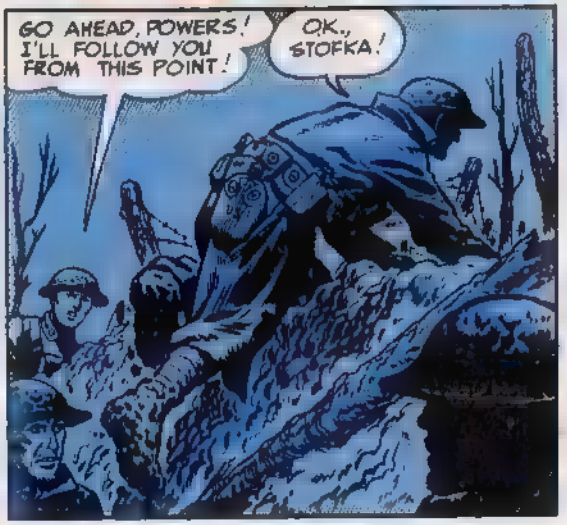
GET DOWN! THE JERRIES SEE US!
BAWEEEE
BWINN

PLEASE!
PLEASE
GIMME A HAND, GUYS!

OH, PLEASE
PLEASE!

SERGEANT! THAT POOR KID'S DRIVING US NUTS! POWERS AND I WOULD LIKE TO BRING HIM IN!
YOU'D BE DEAD BEFORE YOU TAKE TWO STEPS, STOFKA!

BUT YOU JUST CAN'T LET HIM DIE THAT WAY! HOW COLD-BLOODED CAN YOU BE?
GO THEN! GO AHEAD! BUT DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU!


GO AHEAD, POWERS! I'LL FOLLOW YOU FROM THIS POINT!
OK., STOFKA!

BRAT-A-TAT-TAT

THE JERRIES PLAYED IT SMART! THEY KNEW WE'D COME OUT FOR THE KID! THEY LET POWERS REACH THE BARBED WIRE BEFORE THEY OPENED UP! NOW THERE WERE 2 ON THE WIRE!

STOFKA TURNED AND STAGGERED FOR THE TRENCH! HE MADE IT ALL RIGHT! WHEN HE HIT THE TRENCH, HE WAS STONE DEAD! I'D WARNED THEM! I SHOULDN'T HAVE...I *SHOULDN'T* HAVE LET THEM GO!

...AND SO, THE DAY WORE ON WITH NO REINFORCEMENTS IN SIGHT! WE WERE PINNED THERE!

THE KID OUT THERE WAS TURNING DELIRIOUS! IT WAS DRIVING US OUT OF OUR MINDS!

HE GROANED AGAIN AND AGAIN AND *AGAIN AND AGAIN!* JUST AS REGULAR AS A CLOCK!

OH LORD! WHY DIDN'T SOMETHING HAPPEN? IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE MERCIFUL FOR HIM TO DIE!

THIS TIME, IT WAS BRYANT KITCHENS...OLD 'KITCH'! THE BULLETS SPUN HIM AROUND LIKE A RAG-DOLL! IT SEEMED LIKE HE'D NEVER FALL! BUT HE DID!

'KITCH' WAS ONE OF THE 'OLD SOLDIERS'! IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE *ALL* OF WHO'D BEEN IN THE LINE TOO LONG'D CRACK ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!

THREE MEN DEAD...AND WITH THAT MOANING KID DYING OUT THERE, THE WHOLE SQUAD WOULD SOON BE LOCO!

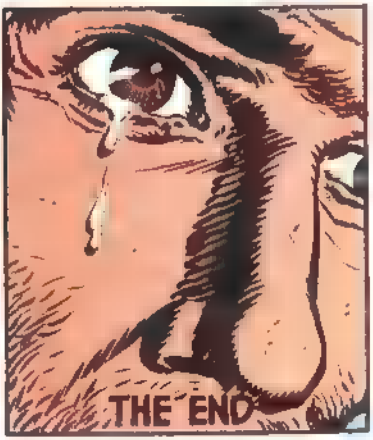
I HAD TO DO SOMETHING! WHAT KIND OF A THING WAS THIS WAR WHERE GROWNUP MEN CALLED FOR THEIR MOMMAS?

...WHAT KIND OF A THING?

WHERE MEN CRY LIKE WOMEN! WAR! WHAT AN UGLY NAME! THE UGLIEST DISEASE WE MEN WERE CURSED WITH!

AND WHERE DID THIS DISEASE COME FROM?...FROM MEN! WHO WAS CRAZY...KITCH OR THE REST OF US?

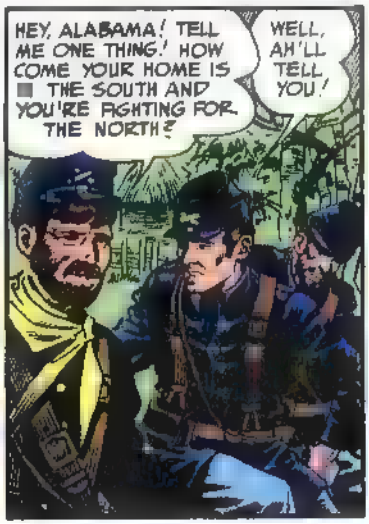
FIRING WAS BREAKING OUT ALL AROUND US! SOON WE'D ADVANCE! THE KID ON THE BARBED WIRE LAY STILL! MY SHOT HAD GONE TRUE!

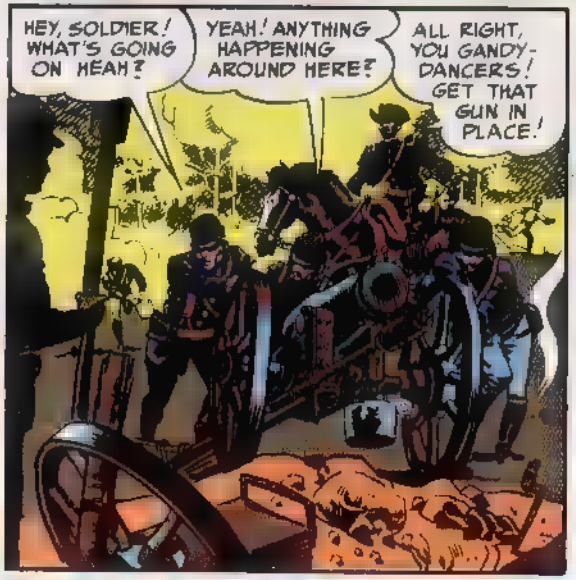


1863! THE SOUTH WAS ON THE MARCH! FLUSHED WITH THE SUCCESSES AT FREDERICKSBURG AND CHANCELLORSVILLE, LEE DECIDED TO ADVANCE ON WASHINGTON! IN THE FACE OF RESISTANCE, LEE ORDERED HIS SCATTERED FORCES TO CONVERGE AND CONSOLIDATE AT A SMALL TOWN ON THE ROAD HUB! HERE, HE BUMPED INTO THE UNION ARMY! OH, YES! THE TOWN WAS...

GETTYSBURG!

ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE BATTLE, A TEAM OF HORSES DRAGGING A LIMBER AND A 12 POUND CANNON TORE UP THE SLOPE OF CEMETERY RIDGE TO REINFORCE THE SOLID ROW OF UNION GUNS FACING THE CONFEDERATE ARMY!

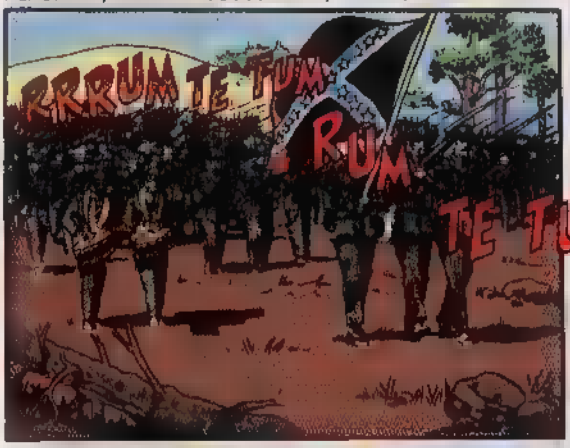


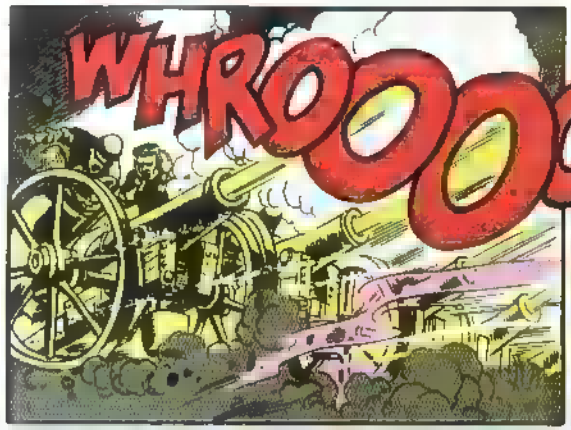


AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON, GENERAL PICKETT AND 14,000 MEN... THE CREAM OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY... CAME OUT OF THE WOODS AND ADVANCED ACROSS THE UNBROKEN FIELD! THIS WAS PICKETT'S CHARGE!

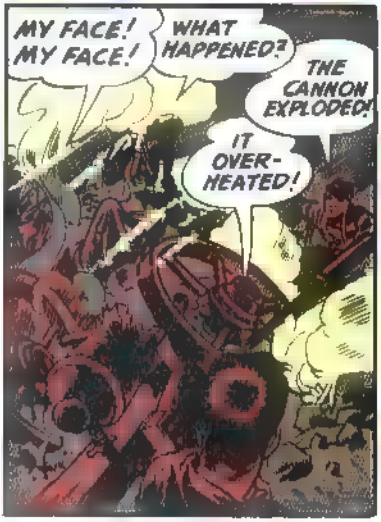
ON THEY CAME! THE 'BUTTERNUT BOYS,' 'SESESH'S,' 'JOHNNY REBS'! MEN FROM SOUTH CAROLINA, MISSISSIPPI, FLORIDA, ALABAMA, GEORGIA, LOUISIANA, TEXAS, VIRGINIA...

FARMERS, PLANTATION OWNERS, MEN ■ GREY CARRYING THE REBEL FLAG OF STARS AND BARS! ON THEY CAME, MARCHING RIGHT INTO THE MOUTHS OF THE NORTHERN CANNON!




WHROOOOOM!

BAH-RROOOM!


MY FACE! MY FACE!
WHAT HAPPENED?
THE CANNON EXPLODED!
IT OVER-HEATED!

THE REB'S ARE ALMOST ON TOP OF US! GRAB A RIFLE, BOY!
EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!

SHECKS, BOY! YOU BEEN THE ARTILLERY SO LONG, YOU CAIN'T LOAD A RIFLE! JEST WATCH ME LOAD THIS OL' SQUIRREL GUN!

FIRST, A THIMBLE O' POWDER!

N' THEN, A RIFLE BALL (P'TEW) WHICH I CARRIES IN MY CHEEK!
PLUNK

BANG 'ER DOWN ON A ROCK!
CRAK

'AN FIRE!
BLAM!

THEY'RE ALL AROUND US, BOY! GET THAT FELLER WITH THE SWORD OR...

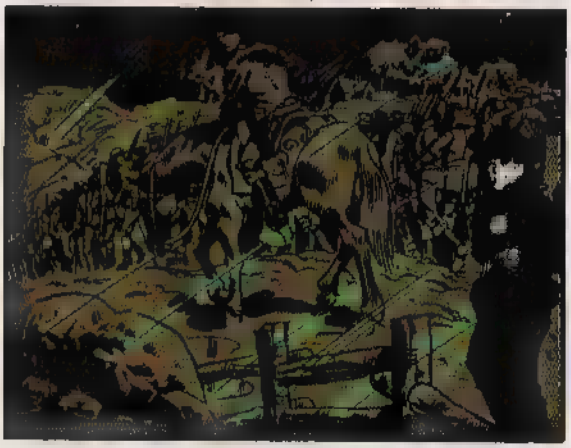
...I'M DONE FOR!

LEMME GET MAH SABRE OUTTA THIS ©✱!!✱?//© YANKEE!

BLAM!
U.S.

WE'VE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN!
HURRAH!
HURRAH! THE REBS ARE RUNNING!

...AND THAT EVENING, LEE ABANDONED GETTYSBURG AND RETREATED WITH HIS BROKEN ARMY INTO VIRGINIA! THIS WAS THE CLIMAX OF THE CIVIL WAR, THE WATERLOO OF THE SOUTH!



TAPS SOUNDED OVER A FIELD NOW AT PEACE, FOR DEATH BRINGS PEACE! AND IN THE FITFUL LIGHT OF THE CAMP-FIRES, 1,500 MEN COULD BE SEEN LAYING IN THE FIELD!

MEN LYING ■ ALL THE AWKWARD RIGID ATTITUDES OF DEATH... SOME KILLED BY THE WHIZZING MINIE BALLS...

...OTHERS TORN BY SHRAPNEL OR PERFORATED BY GRAPE AND CANNISTER SHOT...

...AND STILL OTHERS, WHO WERE KILLED WITH THE SWORD AND THE BAYONET... AND EVEN THE BARE-HANDS!

GETTYSBURG WAS NOW AT PEACE! A THOUSAND-SCORE SOULS WERE AT PEACE! AND SOMEWHERE ON CEMETERY RIDGE, BESIDE THE SILENT CANNONS, A YOUNG NORTHERN SOLDIER WEPT OVER THE BODY OF A SOUTHERN OFFICER WHO WAS HIS FATHER!

...WE CANNOT DEDICATE-
WE CANNOT CONSECRATE-
WE CANNOT HALLOW
THIS GROUND, THE
BRAVE MEN, LIVING
AND DEAD WHO
STRUGGLED HERE
HAVE CONSECRATED IT,
FAR ABOVE OUR
POOR POWER
TO ADD
OR DETRACT...

A. LINCOLN
GETTYSBURG
1863

THE CHINESE OFFENSIVE HAS ROLLED THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES BACK PAST THE 38TH PARALLEL! BUT NOW THE OFFENSIVE IS EXHAUSTED, AND THE CHINESE AND NORTH KOREANS HAVE RECOILED TO RESTRENGTHEN AND REGROUP! U.N. PATROLS MOVE OUT, SEARCHING, PROBING, TRYING TO MAKE ENEMY...

CONTACT!

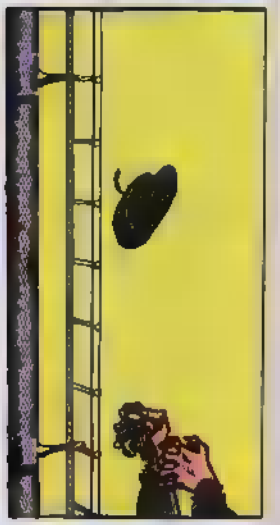
SEE ANYTHING OUT THERE, LOOTENANT?

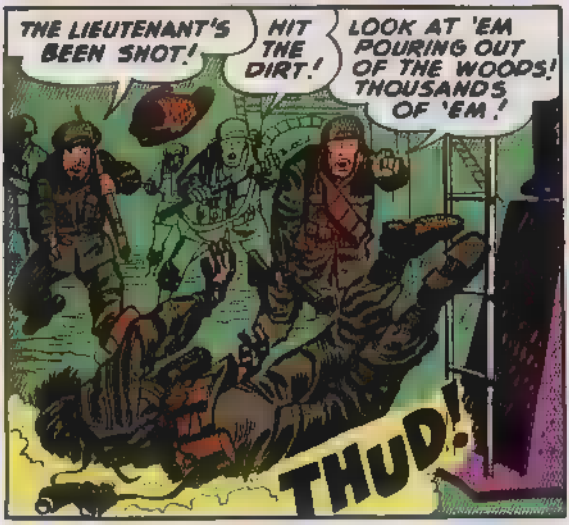
WHAT'S ITCHING YOU, WEEMS? GOOKS GOT YOU NERVOUS? WANT ME TO HOLD YOUR HAND?
THAT'S ENOUGH BLOWING OUT OF YOU, DURKEE! ALWAYS TALKING LIKE A BIG-SHOT!

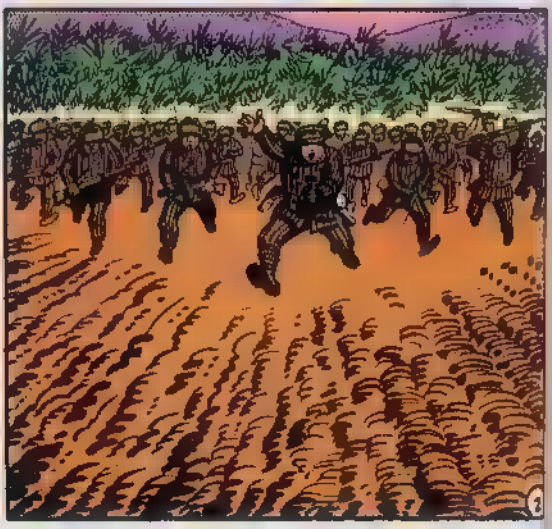
ALWAYS USING THAT DUMB WORD, 'GOOK'! YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU'RE A BIG-SHOT AMERICAN SUPERMAN! YOU'RE NO SUPERMAN! YOU'RE JUST A BIG BAG OF...
TAKE COVER!
HEY!

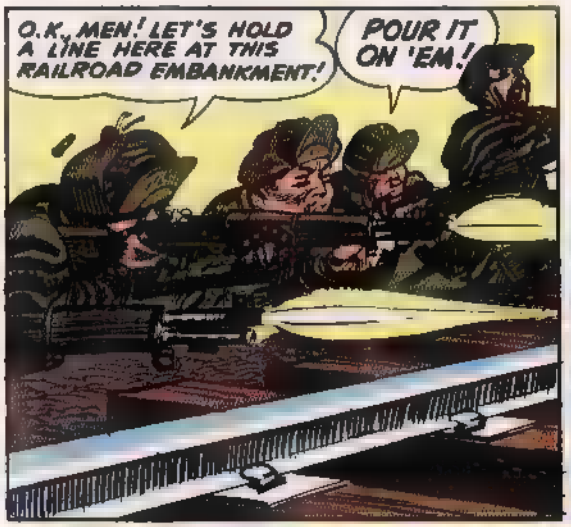
THE LIEUTENANT IS YELLING TO US...
TAKE...
CRAK!

CRAK!

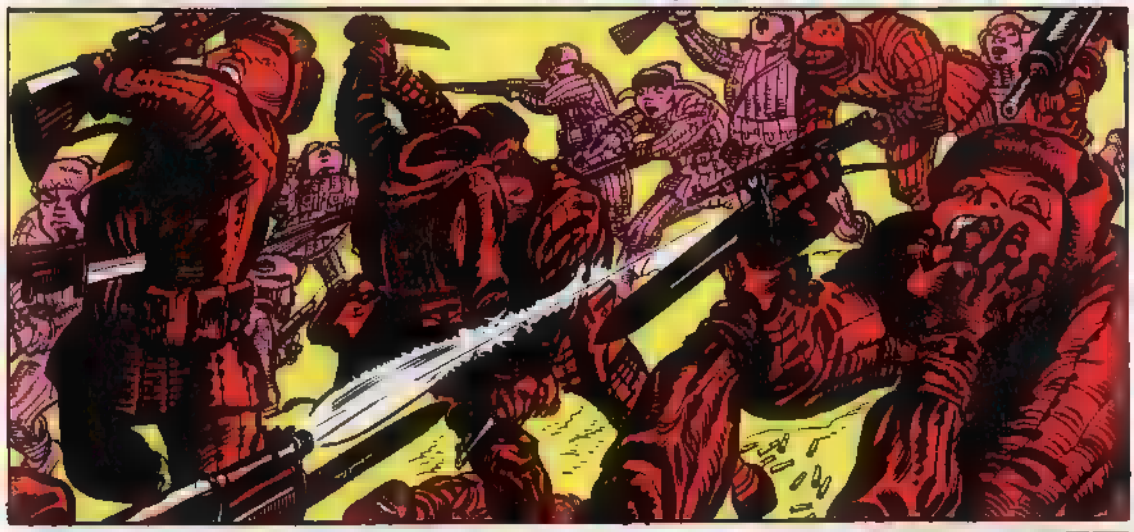



THE LIEUTENANT'S BEEN SHOT!
HIT THE DIRT!
LOOK AT 'EM POURING OUT OF THE WOODS! THOUSANDS OF 'EM!
THUD!




O.K., MEN! LET'S HOLD A LINE HERE AT THIS RAILROAD EMBANKMENT!
POUR IT ON 'EM!

THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM!
EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!
GET OUT THEM BAYONETS!
CLIK



UGH! LEGGO OF ME!

WEEMS! HELP ME!

CRAK

TRY TO KNIFE ME, YOU ©✱!?
THAT'S RIGHT... DURKEE!

KNIFE HIM, SUPERMAN! KNIFE HIM AFTER I'VE KILLED HIM, BIG SHOT!
COME ON, KID! FOLLOW ME!

FOLLOW ME! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE WHILE THE CHINESE REGROUP! THE WHOLE PATROL IS WIPED OUT!

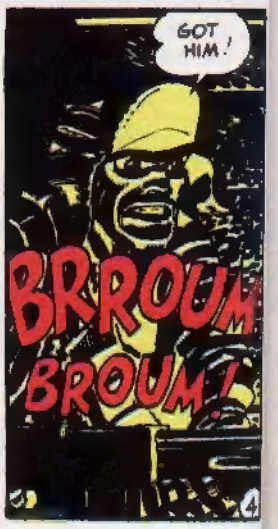
QUICK! INTO THE RAILROAD TUNNEL! THEY CAN'T SEE US IN THE TUNNEL!

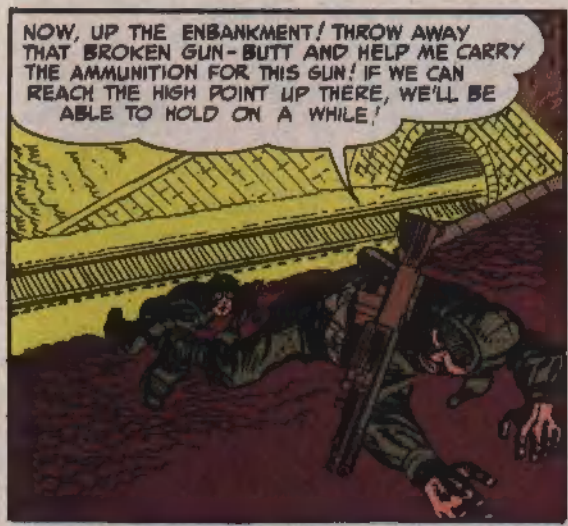
HUG THE SIDES OF THE TUNNEL, MEN! YOU WON'T MAKE SUCH A GOOD TARGET!
BRRRRRAAAAPP

IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, WEEMS! KEEP MOVING! WATCH THEM SILHOUETTE THEMSELVES AT THE TUNNEL MOUTH!
HA! THERE!

BRRROUM
BRROUM!

NOW LET'S DUCK OUT THE OTHER END BEFORE THEY CATCH US FROM BOTH SIDES!
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE SNEAKING IN!

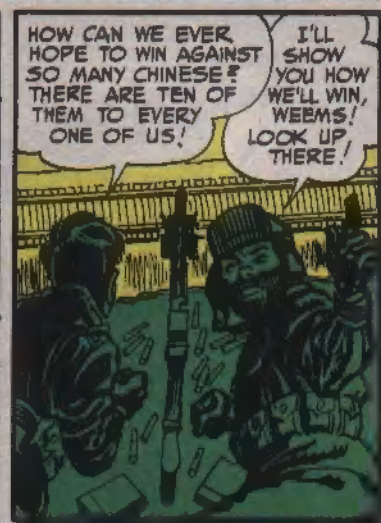

GOT HIM!
BRROUM
BROUM!

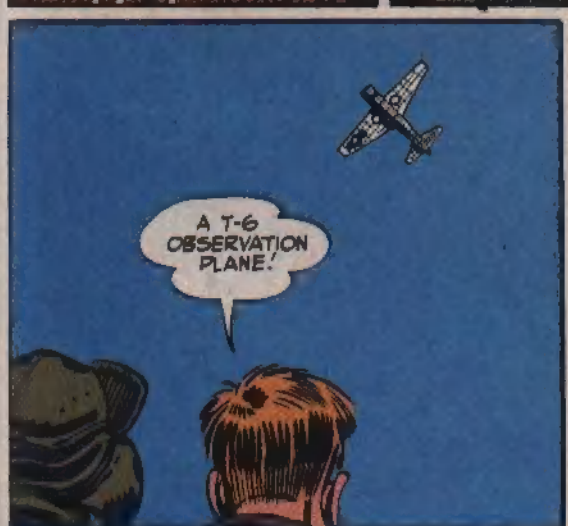

NOW, UP THE ENBANKMENT! THROW AWAY THAT BROKEN GUN-BUTT AND HELP ME CARRY THE AMMUNITION FOR THIS GUN! IF WE CAN REACH THE HIGH POINT UP THERE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD ON A WHILE!

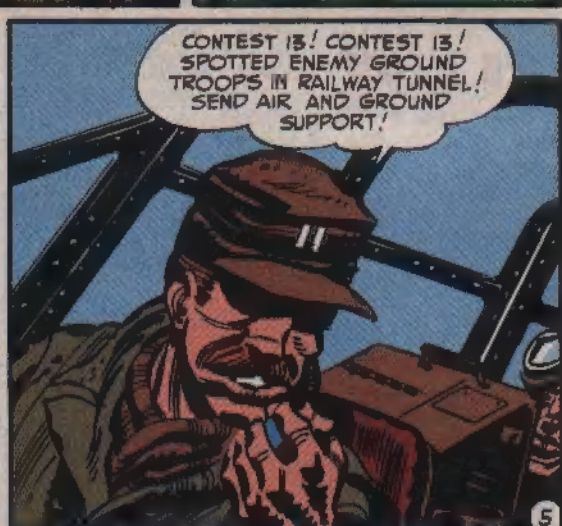
HERE THEY COME!
BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA

THAT SENT 'EM BACK AGAIN!
WHAT'S THE GOOD, SERGEANT? THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THEM...

...AND THERE ARE JUST TWO OF US! I'M NO SUPER JERK LIKE DURKEE! THOSE CHINESE ARE TOUGH! THEY'RE OUT TO GET US!

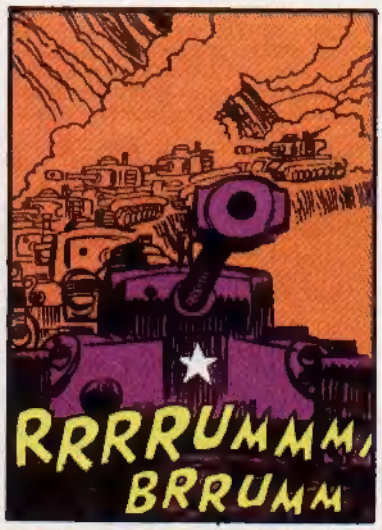

HOW CAN WE EVER HOPE TO WIN AGAINST SO MANY CHINESE? THERE ARE TEN OF THEM TO EVERY ONE OF US!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW WE'LL WIN, WEEMS! LOOK UP THERE!

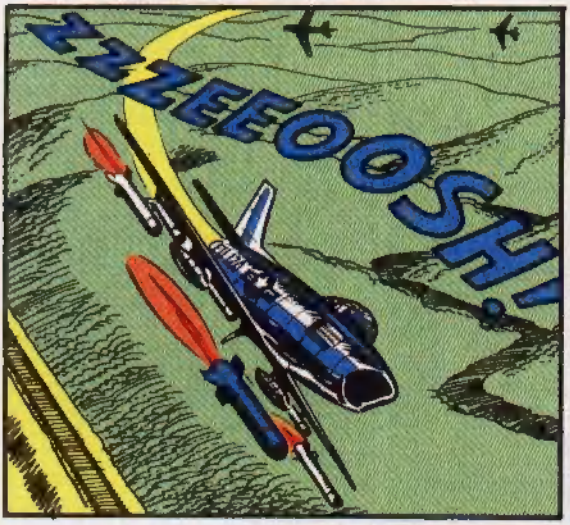

A T-6 OBSERVATION PLANE!

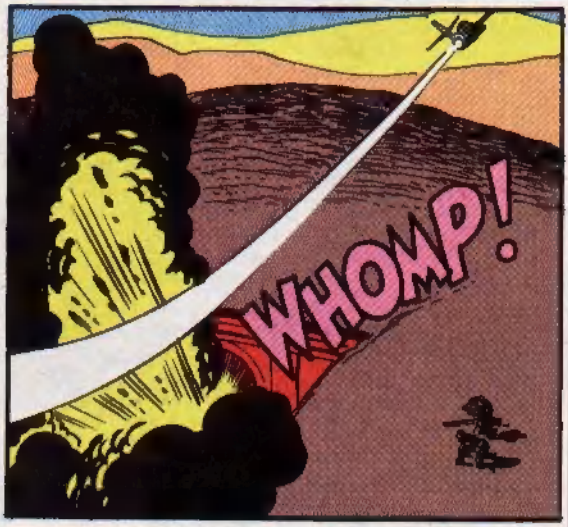

CONTEST 13! CONTEST 13! SPOTTED ENEMY GROUND TROOPS IN RAILWAY TUNNEL! SEND AIR AND GROUND SUPPORT!

ROGER POSITION! FLIGHT OF F-86'S AND KILLER TANK COLUMN ON THE WAY! OVER!

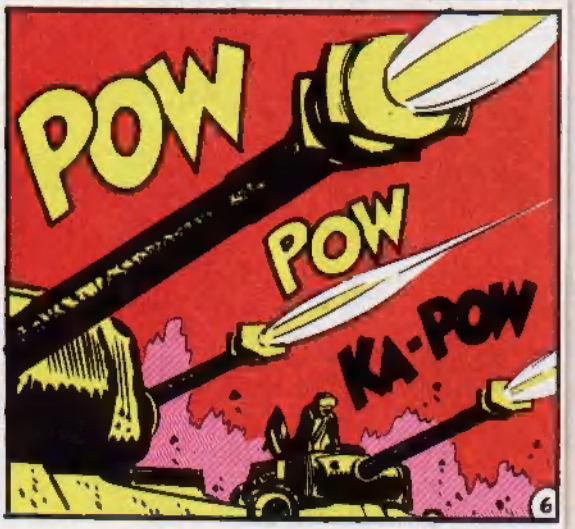
RROWRR
OWRR
OWRR


RRRRUMMM
BRRUMM


ZZZEEOOSH!


WHOMP!

CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK!


POW
POW
KA-POW

THE TANKS LURCH FORWARD OVER THE DEBRIS OF BROKEN STONES AND MEN! OVERHEAD THE PLANES ROAR THROUGH THE SKY, SEEKING NEW TARGETS! MACHINES AGAINST MEN! STEEL AGAINST FLESH! AND REMEMBER, IF WE BELIEVE IN **GOOD**, WE **CAN'T GO WRONG!**

THAT'S IT, READERS! DID YOU ENJOY THIS MAGAZINE? YOUR LETTERS GIVE US AN IDEA OF WHAT YOU LIKE TO READ SO WON'T YOU PLEASE WRITE US AND TELL US **WHAT** YOU LIKED AND **WHY!**

WRITE TO:

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WEST PLAINS
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